

RELEVANT FIRE CODE ISSUES

The Longmont Fire Department is charged with the enforcement of the 2000 International Fire Code. The purpose of the *International Fire Code* (IFC) is to “establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life, safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises.”

RIGHT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO INSPECT THE PROPERTY

The *Fire Code* gives fire department personnel the right of entry whenever necessary to enforce the provisions of the code, or if there is reasonable cause to believe that an unsafe or dangerous condition exists. **(IFC §104 – General Responsibilities)**

STORAGE OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL

A common hazard is the improper storage or accumulation of combustible waste material. In general terms, the *Fire Code* enforces the following rules for property owners and/or occupants:

- Building owners or occupants must remove any combustible waste materials which might cause a fire hazard, from both the building and the surrounding property.
 - Building owners or occupants must cut down and remove weeds, grass, vines or other growth capable of being ignited and endangering property.
 - Building owners or occupants may not allow the storage of combustible rubbish which creates a nuisance or a hazard to the public health, safety or welfare.
 - Building owners or occupants may not unlawfully, deliberately or negligently set fire to, or cause the burning of, combustible material in a way that endangers the safety of persons or property.
- (IFC §304)**

EVACUATION PLANS

Some specific buildings are required to have Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans. In general, all hotels, motels, boarding houses, and assisted living facilities must have these plans and the building owner or manager should conduct quarterly drills for their staff. Printed emergency guides should be provided to all residents. **(IFC §404)**

VISIBLE ADDRESSES

All buildings shall have an approved address number plainly visible from the street or road fronting the property to ensure that emergency responders can quickly find the correct location of an incident.

EXTENSION CORDS

Extension cords and flexible cords cannot be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. This is to prevent overloading of electrical circuits, which can cause fires due to the excess heat produced.

CHRISTMAS TREES

The Fire Department does not allow natural cut trees in hotels, motels, boarding houses or in the public areas of apartment buildings. They are allowed in private dwelling units in apartments. Natural Christmas trees may be allowed if the building has an automatic sprinkler system.

BARBEQUES

Neither propane nor charcoal barbeques are allowed on buildings with combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction. Propane barbeques may not have a fuel bottle more than 2.5 liters in capacity. Propane may be allowed if the building has an automatic sprinkler system.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information regarding the *Fire Code*, see:

1. Longmont Public Library
2. www.ICCSafe.org
3. www.ecodes.biz
4. www.ci.longmont.co.us/fire/fire_code/index.htm

Keep in mind that the city of Longmont has developed a specific *Fire Code* with certain requirements. Some of the requirements in Longmont's *Fire Code* are relevant only to the City of Longmont while other requirements meet state and international standards.